We claim:

JC20 Rec'd PCT/PTO 29 SEP 2005

- A system which is suitable as a catalyst for the hydrocyanation of olefinically
 unsaturated compounds and comprises
 - a) Ni(0)
- a compound which complexes Ni(0) as a ligand and comprises phosphites,
 phosphonites or mixtures thereof,
 - c) a Lewis acid

and

15

30

- d) a compound of the formula M R_n
- c) and d) being different,
- 20 where
 - M: Al or Ti
- R: identical or different monovalent alkoxy radicals, in which case a plurality of alkoxy radicals may be bonded together, and additionally, in the case that M = AI, R may be identical or different monovalent alkyl radicals, in which case a plurality of alkyl radicals may be bonded together or one or more alkyl radicals may be bonded to one or more of the abovementioned alkoxy radicals,

n: valency of M.

- 2. The system according to claim 1, wherein R, in the case of an alkoxy radical, is methoxy, ethoxy, 1-propoxy, 2-propoxy, 1-n-butoxy, 2-n-butoxy, 1-isobutoxy or 2-isobutoxy.
 - 3. The system according to claim 1, wherein R, in the case of an alkyl radical, is methyl, ethyl, 1-propyl, 2-propyl, 1-n-butyl, 2-n-butyl, 1-isobutyl or 2-isobutyl.

Amended sheet

15

30

- 4. The system according to claim 1 or 2, wherein compound d) is a titanium tetraalkoxide.
- 5. The system according to claim 1 or 2, wherein compound d) is an aluminum trialkoxide.
 - 6. The system according to claim 1 or 3, wherein compound d) is a trialkylaluminum.
- 7. The system according to any of claims 1 to 6, wherein the R radicals in compound d) are the same.
 - 8. A process for hydrocyanating an olefinically unsaturated compound in the presence of an Ni(0)-comprising catalyst system, which comprises using a system according to any of claims 1 to 7 as the Ni(0)-comprising catalyst system.
 - 9. The process according to claim 8, wherein the olefinically unsaturated compound comprises a functional group selected from the group consisting of -CN, -COOR¹, -CONR²R³
- where R¹, R², R³: each independently, in the case that R² and R³ are the same or different, H or alkyl.
 - 10. The process according to claim 8, wherein the olefinically unsaturated compound used is a compound of the formula (C₄H₇)-X
- where X: functional group selected from the group consisting of -CN, -COOR¹, -CONR²R³
 - where R^1 , R^2 , R^3 : each independently, in the case that R^2 and R^3 are the same or different, H or alkyl.
 - 11. The process according to claim 8, wherein the olefinically unsaturated compound used is a linear pentenenitrile.
- The process according to 8, wherein the olefinically unsaturated compound used is 3-pentenenitrile or 4-pentenenitrile.